

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 23, 2012 has been entered.

## **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian K. Kauffman on February 6, 2012.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 84 line 4, change the phrase "a flow-forming member" to - - a flow-passage forming member - -.

## ***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1-8, 10, 30-33, 35, 44, 65, 68, 70-72 and 74-93 are allowed.

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4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claim 1, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest an exposure apparatus comprising: a flow-passage forming member having a supply inlet from which the liquid is supplied, the flow-passage forming member having a liquid recovery outlet in a lower surface thereof, an upper surface of the substrate facing the lower surface of the flow-passage forming member during an exposure, and the liquid supplied from the supply inlet covering only a portion of the upper surface of the substrate during the exposure; a temperature sensor provided at the flow-passage forming member; and a temperature adjustment system which performs temperature adjustment for the substrate-holding member depending on a temperature of the liquid to be supplied from the supply inlet onto the substrate held by the substrate-holding member, in combination with the other elements required by claim 1.

With regard to claim 30, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest an exposure apparatus comprising: a flow-passage forming member having a supply inlet from which the liquid is supplied, the flow-passage forming member having a liquid recovery outlet in a lower surface thereof, an upper surface of the substrate facing the lower surface of the flow-passage forming member during an exposure; a temperature sensor provided at the flow-passage forming member; a measuring station which performs measurement for one of the substrates held by one of the stages; an exposure station which performs exposure for the substrate held by the other of the stages, the exposure station being provided with the flow-passage forming member having the supply inlet from which the liquid is supplied onto the substrate held by the other of the stages, the supplied liquid

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covering only a portion of the upper surface of the substrate held by the other of the stages during the exposure; and temperature adjustment systems which are provided for the first substrate stage and the second substrate stage respectively and which perform temperature adjustment for the substrate-holding member of each of the stages depending on a temperature of the liquid to be supplied from the supply inlet of the flow-passage forming member, in combination with the other elements required by claim 30.

With regard to claim 74, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest an exposure method comprising: exposing the substrate by radiating an exposure light beam onto the substrate through the liquid covering the portion of the upper surface of the substrate; and measuring a temperature of the liquid supplied from the supply inlet; and controlling a temperature of the substrate-holding member depending on the measured liquid temperature, in combination with the other elements required by claim 74.

With regard to claim 84, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest an exposure apparatus comprising: a flow-passage forming member having a supply inlet from which the liquid is supplied, the flow-passage forming member having a liquid recovery outlet in a lower surface thereof, an upper surface of the substrate facing the lower surface of the flow-passage forming member during an exposure, and the liquid supplied from the supply inlet covering only a portion of the upper surface of the substrate during the exposure; a temperature sensor provided at the flow-passage forming member; and a temperature adjustment system which performs temperature adjustment for the substrate-holding member so that a temperature of the substrate-holding member is the

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same as a temperature of the liquid to be supplied onto the substrate held by the substrate-holding member, in combination with the other elements required by claim 84.

Claims 2-8, 10, 31-33, 35, 44, 65, 68, 70-72, 75-83, and 84-93 are allowable by virtue of their dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MESFIN T. ASFAW whose telephone number is (571)270-5247. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 7:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward J. Glick can be reached on 571-272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/MESFIN T ASFAW/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2882

/Edward J Glick/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2882